

The Woodiwiss Influence

February 10

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A detailed look at the life and influence of Mr. Samuel Woodiwiss on early
fancier groups and breeds during the late 1890s through 1952.
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Part 2 -
Samuel
Woodiwiss

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Rarely does one find a large family that has had such an impact on the various fancies throughout England as did the sons of Sir Abraham Woodiwiss. Their influence on the breeding of dogs, cats, poultry, sheep, ponies, cattle, and even mice in the late 1800s and early 1900s has had a profound effect on the development of various and numerous breeds. The awards that their exhibits won at shows are legendary.

There has been much speculation within the cat fancy about the connection between Samuel Woodiwiss, Sedgemere Cattery, and Major E. Sydney Woodiwiss, Woodrooffe Cattery. Both gentlemen had the same last name, occasionally confusing the two as Major Woodiwiss sometimes used the initials E.S., sometimes he used E. Sydney, and sometimes he was just referred to as Major S. Woodiwiss; Sam, however, was, for the most part, always referred to as Sam in registration records, news reports, show results, etc. Both E. Sydney and Sam, however, were well-known breeders, active in the early 20th century cat fancy as well as the dog fancy. They worked with different breeds of cats, sometimes overlapping, mostly preferring one breed over another. It's not surprising, therefore, that our research has proven that they were indeed brothers.

Ancestry.co.uk records confirm that their father was Sir Abraham Woodiwiss (1828-1884), who is listed in the book *Knights of England* as having been knighted on April 20, 1883. He was a mason and building master¹, a self-made man who amassed a fortune as a railway contractor with Benton & Woodiwiss, which he joined in 1861, and also served as Mayor of Derby, UK (1881-1882).

Sir Abraham, and his wife, Lady Emma Woodiwiss (1829-1897), had ten offspring; notable in the Cat Fancy were sons Samuel and Edwin Sydney. Other sons, George and Isaac Newton were also known fanciers of cats and poultry (George), and dogs and sheep (Isaac Newton).



Figure 1 – A photograph of the family of Sir Abraham Woodiwiss, taken circa 1872-1873.

Standing at the back (L to R) Abraham Jr, Alfred, Abraham (later Sir);

In front of them, two small boys, **Samuel** and **Isaac Newton**;

Front row Emma, Mary, Emma (later Lady) with **Edwin Sydney** on her knee; **George**, Harry.

Photo used courtesy of Nicola Gunn

¹ 1861 Census records, Bath Abbey Cemetery - Memorial Inscriptions

Making their lives easier, each of the sons of Sir Abraham inherited a large sum of money upon his death in 1884, allowing them all to indulge in the lifestyle of an eccentric, as several of them elected to do.

SAMUEL WOODIWISS (1867-1952)

*"This gentleman (who may be just styled one of the Kings of the Dog World), is possessed of the pride of the fancy ..."*²

Samuel (Sam) was born in Derby in September of 1867. As a young adult, he lived at Sedgemere House between 1888 and 1900, and was known to own and show cats such as Sedgemere Peaty and Sedgemere Bottle, both early Abyssinians, and Xenophon, a brown tabby English Shorthair.

The Feline Historical Museum (Alliance, Ohio) owns a gold medal from a Crufts Cat Show that is engraved "Awarded to Mr. S. Woodiwiss's Team".

Research by Mr. Hugh Petrie, of the Hendon (UK) Library, shows that Sedgemere House, East Finchley, London, UK was the residence of Sam Woodiwiss from 1888 until 1900. Sam was described as using Sedgemere as a "fancy breeding farm", and specifically as Sedgemere cattery and kennels.

*"At 'Sedgemere Kennels' there was room for at least 50 dogs but also an extensive menagerie with monkeys, exotic birds and a piggery for his rare breeds. During this time, Woodiwiss introduced the Dogues de Bordeaux Bull Dogs to Britain, co-founded the Abyssinian Cat Club as well as the National Mouse Society. His most famous dog was Baron Sedgemere, a Bull Dog who won Crufts in 1898 and sold for 350gn in 1899. One of his cats, and another Crufts winner, "Xenophon", was valued at £2000."*³

FANCY ACTIVITIES

Along with being a breeder, exhibitor and judge, Sam Woodiwiss was also involved in clubs and committees that organized the cat fancy, as well as the fancy for dogs, mice, etc. Records in the *London Evening Standard* indicate that was also a cat show judged, officiating at the 9th Crystal Palace Show in 1900⁴.

Ms. Frances Simpson, in *The Book of the Cat* observes:

"At the Crystal Palace show of 1902 Mr. Woodiwiss judged the blue classes, and awarded first to a cat having the English type of head. He gave as his reasons that although he considered the long nose and thin head the right shape for a Russian, yet, he added, 'I am not here to judge on those lines; I have to judge according to the standard, which gives preference to round head, neat ears, and short nose ; and, although I really believe Mrs. Walker's blue' Moscow' to be the



MR. SAM WOODIWISS.
*Member of the Committee of the Bulldog Club
(Incorporated.) Past Vice-President. Past President
of the British Bulldog Club.*

Figure 2 - Mr. Samuel Woodiwiss, from
The Bulldog: A Monograph, 3rd Edition,
by Edgar Farman, 1903

² *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*, November 7, 1895

³ Correspondence with Hugh Petrie, Hendon (UK) Library

⁴ *London Evening Standard*, October 24, 1900

*nearest in type to those I have seen in Eastern countries, yet according to our English breeders' standard it is out of it, and I can only give it reserve.'"*⁵

Both he and E. Sydney were Committee Members of The National Cat Club, listed in Volume 2 of the *National Cat Club Studbook*, 1894. In 1895, Sam served as meeting Chairman of The National Cat Club, per Volume 3 of the *National Cat Club Studbook*. Sam and his brother, Isaac Newton Woodiwiss, were listed as Vice-Presidents and Committee Members of The National Cat Club, in Volume 2 of the *National Cat Club Studbook*, 1896-1899.

Sam was also a driving force behind the establishment of the Abyssinian Cat Club, as well as a long-time member of the British Bulldog Club. In addition, he was the first president and founder of the National Mice Club in 1895, as well as a founding member, past president and life member of the Essex Pig Society when it was formed in 1918.⁶

CATS

Sam Woodiwiss is on record as one of the earliest owners/breeders of several breeds of cats: Abyssinian, English Shorthair, Manx, and Russians. '**Sedgemere Peaty**' and '**Sedgemere Bottle**' are two of the earliest Abyssinians to be found in registration records. 'Sedgemere Peaty' eventually became the property of Mrs. H.C. Brooke, and was renamed '**Chelsworth Peaty**', Chelsworth being Mr. & Mrs. Brooke's cattery name. H.C. Brooke often raved about Peaty's coloring in his writings:

*"Probably the best Abyssinians ever seen in this country were Sedgemere Bottle and Sedgemere Peaty, the property of Mr. Sam Woodiwiss. They were, as far as I know, not related, and if this be the case it is really remarkable how two such specimens were obtained. They were **very much the colour of a hare**. Peaty ended her days in my possession, and I have always regretted not having preserved her skin, to at least retain her glorious colour, though her beautiful sinuous form and delicate limbs can hardly be imagined by those who have not seen her."*⁷



Figure 3 - Sedgemere Peaty, right, an Abyssinian owned by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss⁸

⁵ *The Book of the Cat*, Frances Simpson, 1903

⁶ *Chelmsford Chronicle*, March 26, 1937

⁷ "The Abyssinian Cat", an article by Mr. H.C. Brooke, 1929

⁸ *Book of the Cat*, Frances Simpson, 1903

One of the earliest Manx cats to be found in the British registration records was '**Sedgemere Toff**' (NCC: 1636), a Silver Tabby male owned by Mrs. S. Woodiwiss, who won a First at the Royal Aquarium Cat Show of 1894.⁹

The English Shorthair, '**Sedgemere Silver King**,' was owned by Sam Woodiwiss, as was '**Sedgemere Silver Queen**'¹⁰ who won a First at the Royal Aquarium Cat Show of 1894.

'**Xenophon**', a brown tabby English Shorthair, was probably Sam Woodiwiss's biggest winner in the cat fancy. The cat's background was unknown, and Sam claimed him, as related thusly in *The Evening Standard*:

*"Have you seen the remarkable piece in 'The Standard' about Mr. Woodiwiss, the bull-dog breeder? Well it seems Mr. Woodiwiss went to some dog show some years ago and he noticed a 'smell of cats'; so he went upstairs and there was a cat show in progress, and his attention was caught by a short-haired tabby named Champion Xenophon. 'Within a few minutes he was mine.' And that's how Mr. Woodiwiss began to breed cats."*¹¹ Well, English Shorthairs at least. There is a prior record of an Abyssinian, Gondar, bred by Sam Woodiwiss (Sedgemere Bottle x Sedgemere Peaty).

1338. *CHAMPION XNEPHON. S.M.
Brown Tabby.
Mrs. Charles Heslop, 24, Bondgate, Darlington.
Former owner, Mr. J. Johnson, Lewisham, Malton, Yorkshire.
Born, 1892. Alive.
Sire and Dam unknown.
Prizes won—1st, Malton. 2nd, Bishop Auckland. 1st and special, Walsingham. 1st and four specials, C.P. 3rd, Brighton. 1st and special, Guisborough. 1st and special, Great Ayton, 1893. 1st and four specials, Royal Aquarium, 1894.
*Now owned by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, Sedgemere, East Finchley.

Figure 4- National Cat Club listing for XNEPHON [sic], from the *National Cat Club Studbook*, Volume II

In 1895, a report from the 27th National Cat Show tells us that *"The principal prize winners were Mr. S. Woodiwiss's brown tabby male cat Champion Xenophon, which, besides obtaining the first prize in his class(confined to tabby cats without white marks), further secured a silver medal, one of the pieces of plate presented by the Palace Company, and the gold medal as the best shorthaired cat in the exhibition."*¹²

Another report on the same 1895 show says, *"Two gold and nine silver medals, and many other prizes were offered for competition. One gold medal fell to Mr. Sam Woodiwiss's brown tabby Xenophon, the champion short-haired cat priced at a thousand guineas ..."*¹³

Yet another report on the October 15, 1895 Crystal Palace show, says, *"Class 2, for brown or dark grey tabbies, contains Champion Xenophon, a brown tabby, the property of Mr. Sam Woodiwiss. It carries off the first prize in its class, the silver medal of the Crystal Palace Company, and the gold medal of the National Cat Club for the best short-haired specimen."*¹⁴

⁹ *National Cat Club Stud Book and Register*, 1906

¹⁰ *The Book of the Cat*, Frances Simpson, 1903

¹¹ *Letters of T.S. Eliot, Volume 8: 1936-1938*

¹² "The National Cat Show", *The Morning Post*, October 16, 1895

¹³ *Reynold's Newspaper*, October 20, 1895

¹⁴ *The London Standard*, October 16, 1895

This report on the 1895 show makes it clear that Xenophon was a winning cat at both the 1894 and 1895 Crafts Cat Show: “Mr. S. Woodiwiss’s short-haired tabby Xenophon, which last year gained the championship of the shorthairs, once more worthily sustained his reputation.”¹⁵

Frances Simpson wrote about the brown tabby English Shorthair, Xenophon:

“He was claimed by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, who showed him for some years, and he secured for his owner numerous championships, first prizes, and specials, afterwards changing hands and becoming the property of Lady Decies, still following up his winning career after an unbroken record of ‘second to none.’ I think I am correct in saying this cat has won more money and specials than any short-haired cat ever exhibited.”¹⁶

On the 16th of March, 1895, it was reported that “At the cat show at St. Stephen’s Hall, Westminster, on Thursday [March 14th], Mr. S. Woodiwiss’s Xenophon won the medal for the best smooth English tabby. In the catalogue, this cat was marked at the fancy price of £2,500”.¹⁷



Gold medal “Won by Mr. S. Woodiwiss’s Team” at either the 1894 or 1895 Cruft’s Cat Show.
Property of The CFA Foundation, Inc.

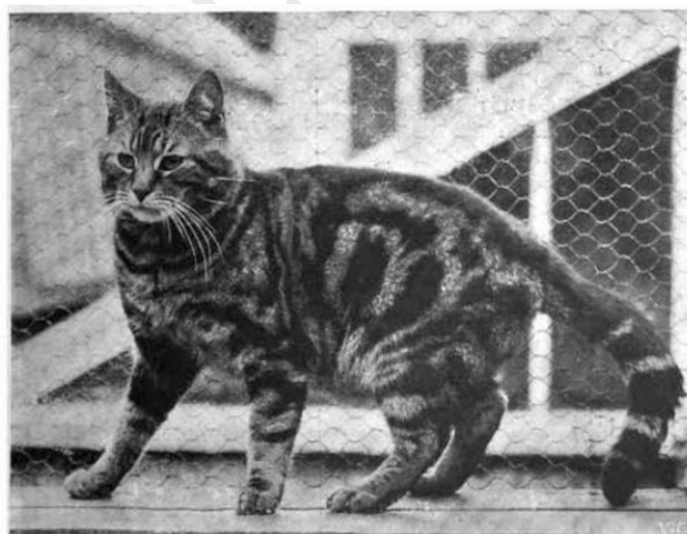
¹⁵ *Lloyd’s Weekly Paper*, March 17, 1895

¹⁶ *ibid*

¹⁷ *Essex Newsman*, 16 March, 1895



Louis Wain illustration showing 'The Cats of the Year' including the "Gold Medal Cat of 1895", Ch. Xenophon, "the property of Sam Woodiwiss, Esq."
Image courtesy of The Harrison Weir Collection



"XENOPHON": CHAMPION ENGLISH BROWN TABBY.
Winner of eight championships, twenty firsts, and numerous specials and cups.
Owned by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss.
Photo by T. Fall.

In "Cats as Cup Winners", written by E. Leuty Collins for *The Windsor Magazine*, Sam Woodiwiss is described as:

*"A man now pre-eminent in the study of cat life as a hobby is Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, of Finchley, whose remarkably victorious Xenophon holds still the champion sway. Not only is Mr. Woodiwiss devoted to cats, but he is also an enthusiast on the subject of dogs."*¹⁹

*"Xenophon was prized at £2000, and has won his master every possible honor a cat can – eight championships, over twenty first prizes, besides cups, specials, etc. etc. He is a most homely cat, of immense size, and with exceptionally fine sable markings. His pet name is 'The Man'."*¹⁹

As late as 1937, Sam Woodiwiss still kept cats as pets, as reported by the *Chelmsford Chronicle*: "While in the early twenties he bought the present farm of 300 acres and now, buoyant and active at seventy years of age, he is acknowledged as an expert breeder and judge of horses, cattle, pigs, goat, sheep, dogs and cats. Of the last named, at his home are nineteen Manx cats, all pets. Few men are interested in such variety"²⁰

A complete listing of cats either owned or bred by Sam Woodiwiss appears at the end of this article.

DOGS

Sam Woodiwiss worked with several breeds of dogs, including Greyhounds, Collies, Dogues de Bordeaux, Fox and Irish Terriers, and Old English Sheepdogs, but is mostly famous for his breeding of Bulldogs at his estate at Sedgemere. He was apparently not above paying a good price for what he considered a good dog to add to his breeding program – "Champion British Monarch, owned by various fanciers and ultimately by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss who gave £175 for it, then a record price for a Bulldog."²¹

At the age of 27, both he and his 23-year old brother, Edwin Sydney, travelled to the United States to exhibit their dogs in New York City, and won numerous prizes.²² They arrived in New York on February 11, 1895 on the vessel, Umbria, having sailed from Liverpool.²³

*"The most noted dog of the 1900 period was "British Monarch", bred by Mr. G. Taylor, though owned and shown by Mr. Samuel Woodiwiss. The experts at that time seemed to be all of the same opinion, that "British Monarch" was the most typical and the best dog on the show bench. In 1900 he won thirty-four First prizes and fourteen Specials – at that time a record."*²⁴

Several show reports mention wins by Sam's dogs:

- 1890: The Herts and North Middlesex Dog, Poultry and Pigeon Society's fourth annual show noted, "Mr. S. Woodiwiss carried all before him in the bulldog classes: his 'Champion British Monarch' took not only the prize in its particular class, but also that offered for the best dog in show."²⁵



CHAMPION BRITISH MONARCH
(K.C.S.B. 19543).
Owned by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss.
Born 26th Oct., 1884, by Monarch ex Venice. Breeder,
J. Taylor.

Figure 5 - Mr. Sam Woodiwiss's bulldog, British Monarch, born October 26, 1884.

¹⁹ "Cats as Cup Winners", *The Windsor Magazine*, Volume IX, Dec 1898-May 1899.

²⁰ *Chelmsford Chronicle*, March 26, 1937

²¹ *The Bulldog: A Monograph*, 3rd Edition, Edgar Farnam, 1903

²² Old Upminster, Tony Benton Blog, <https://upminsterhistory.net/2014/10/04/new-life-for-hill-place/>

²³ Passenger List, Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island Foundation.

²⁴ *Bulldogs and All About Them*, F. Barrett Fowler

²⁵ *The London Standard*, September 19, 1890

- 1892: The South London Bulldog Society show, held on November 22, 1892, *"The Champion prize for Bitches was won by Mr. S. Woodiwiss for his Champion Dryad" and "The first prize in classes 7 and 8 for dogs and bitches respectively under 45 lb. in weight, were won by Mr. S. Woodiwiss with Dockleaf"*²⁶
- 1894: 10th Annual Crufts Dog Show, Islington, *"Mr. S. Woodiwiss, whose dog Dockleaf has an unbeaten record, carried off the first prize in the open classes for dogs"*²⁷
- 1896: 5th show of the South London Bulldog Society, held at the Aquarium, *"The 25 guinea Cup for the best bitch, bred by the exhibitor, Blackberry, the property of Mr. Samuel Woodiwiss. A prize of the same value for best dog, Boaz, Mr. S. Woodiwiss"*²⁸



Figure 6 - The Bulldogs, Champion 'Dockleaf'²⁹ (left) and Champion 'Blackberry'³⁰ (right), owned by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss

Sam was heavily involved in the clubs associated with the bulldog breed, being a member of the Committee of the Bulldog Club Incorporated, and a past Vice-President and past President of the British Bulldog Club.³¹ He also judged at dog shows, e.g. The Bulldog Club's 41st annual show held at Holborn Hall on May 29th, 1912³².

In 1932, Sam wrote the Foreward to *The Bull Dog Year Book*, including a note confirming his passion for the breed:

*"In conclusion I would earnestly ask those who possess a copy to pass the same on to their friends for perusal, by doing so I feel sure we shall get recruits for the one breed I love and have been connected with now for over forty years."*³³

Sam had no less success with his Greyhounds in the show ring either, as reported in the blog, *All About Greyhounds*, which reports: *"Real Jam, born in 1891 and a granddaughter of Misterton, won eighteen first prizes and her Championship at shows."*³⁴

An 1895 written report on a visit to the Sedgemere Kennels, reveals this:

²⁶ *The London Standard*, November 23, 1892

²⁷ *The London Standard*, February 6, 1894

²⁸ *The London Standard*, November 11, 1896

²⁹ *ibid*

³⁰ *All About Dogs - A Book For Doggy People*, by Charles Henry Lane, 1901

³¹ *Ibid*

³² *The London Standard*, May 30, 1912

³³ *The Bull Dog Year Book*, 1932

³⁴ *All About Greyhounds*, http://www.greyhoundinfo.org/?page_id=927

"We passed several kennels containing Greyhounds, and came to the well-known crack, Real Jam, a noted winner of first prizes whenever shown in best of company."³⁵

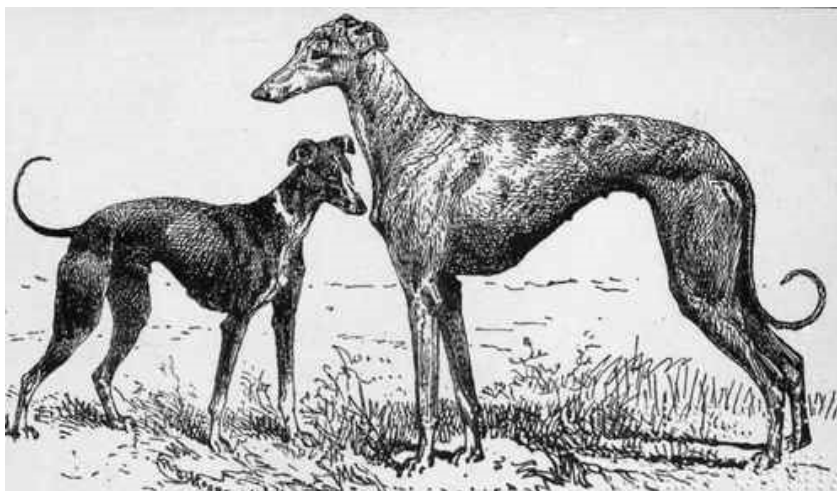


Figure 7 – A Whippet with the Greyhound, 'Real Jam', owned by Sam Woodiwiss.
Graphic from *All About Dogs - A Book For Doggy People*, by Charles Henry Lane, 1901

GREYHOUNDS.
Open dogs—1 and special, Mr. S. Woodiwiss, Chesnut Wonder; 2, Mr. S. Woodiwiss, Whetstone II.; 3, Mr. S. Woodiwiss, Wigmore II.; h e, Mr. S. Woodiwiss, Wrangler III. Open Bitches.—Mr. S. Woodiwiss, Waterwitch V.; 2, Mr. S. Woodiwiss, Waxford; 3, Mr. T. P. Williamson, Duchess of Balmoral; v h c, Mr. S. Woodiwiss, Willow Brook.

BULL DOGS.
Challenge Dogs—1 Mr S Woodiwiss' Ch. Forceps; reserve Mr S Woodiwiss, Ch. Datho. lito. Open Dogs 45lbs and over—1 and 2 special Mr. Geo. R Murrell, King Orry; 2 and special Mr H Pebody, Found it; 3 Mr Wm. Geo. Smartt, Smartt's Punch; v h c Mr Wm. Keath, Cornwallis, and Mr Edward J Fowler

Figure 8 - Show report for Mrs. S. Woodiwiss's Greyhounds and Bull Dogs at the North London Canine Association show, Enfield, UK.
From *The Middlesex Gazette*, June 10, 1893.

According to *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, published May 20, 1899, Sam began disposal of all his dogs in order to concentrate on ponies:

"The dispersal of the famous kennel of bulldogs got together during the last few years by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, was quite the event in the doggy world this week. Mr. Woodiwiss, a son of the late Sir Abraham Woodiwiss, of Derby, is the last of three brothers to give up dogs in favor of farm stock, and it can now no longer be said that, between them, they could guarantee a good portion of the classes at many an ordinary show. Mr. Isaac Woodiwiss, who, although not the original importer into England, had more to do with popularizing Schipperkes than any other man, now devotes most of his spare time to the rearing of sheep, his all-round flock at Duffield, near Derby, being one of the best in the Peak country; whilst his brother, Mr. Sydney Woodiwiss, has come to the front in Dexter cattle since disposing of his world-renowned team of daschunds, one being bought by the Prince of Wales, by the way.

"The Finchley member of the family, whose bulldogs were sold on the last day of the show at the Aquarium this week, is now going in very strongly for ponies, his success at the recent Islington show having stimulated him to greater

³⁵ *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*, 7th November 1895

efforts. His sale on Thursday was one of the most memorable in modern times, and it must have caused Mr. Sam Woodiwiss many a pang to part with Kennel Club champions bred in his own kennel."³⁶

While he may have given up his dogs, Sam maintained his interest in the breed. In 1937 it was reported, "*The Bulldog Club (Incorporated), which is the oldest canine society in Great Britain, will this coming year celebrate its Diamond Jubilee, and its oldest living member, Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, has been appointed president. He joined in 1886, and has been a member of the Council continuously for 40 years, while on five previous occasions he has been president.*"³⁷

GOATS

"The 'recognized' Anglo-Nubian [goat] is dated from 1896 when Mr. Sam Woodiwiss imported a young Jumma Pari he named Sedgemere Chancellor from India. This buck and three other imports were the "exotic" bucks from which the Nubian breed evolved."³⁸

Sam imported at least two Nubian goats from India:³⁹

- Sedgemere Chancellor. Nubian (Jumna Pari) Horned, Imported 1896
- Sedgemere Sangar. Nubian (Zaraiby) Horned. Imported 1904.

The November 1, 1907 edition of the Chelmsford Chronicle reports that "*Of course, Mr. Woodiwiss's treasure is his Sedgemere Faith, a pure Alpine and a virtual Derby winner in the world of goats.*"⁴⁰

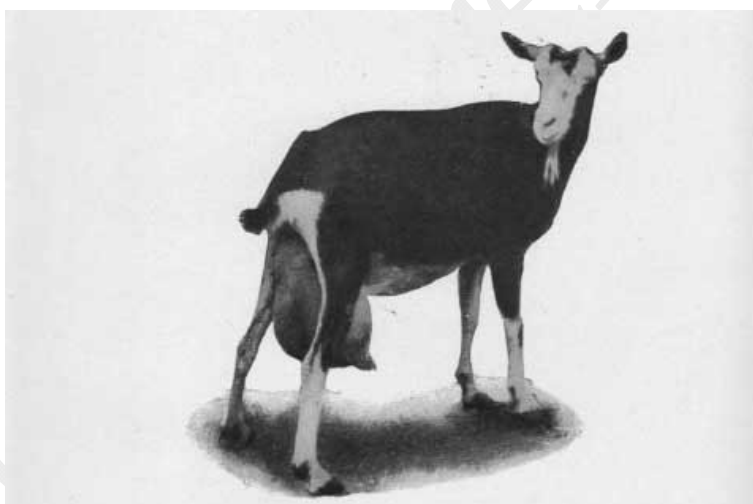


Figure 9 "Mr. Sam Woodiwiss's Alpine (SUNDGAU) SEDGEMERE FAITH. A wonderful milking goat."
Illustration from *The Book of the Goat*, 9th edition, by H.S. Holmes-Pegler.

The British Goat Society, in its history of the early goat fancy, tells us, "*One of the earliest judges was Sam Woodiwiss who had joined as a life member in 1893. He claimed to have owned thirty-two distinct varieties of goat, and at one time his herd (prefix Sedgemere) numbered over sixty animals. Between 1905-1912 he edited the 'Herd Book' and from about 1920 was a BGS judge. He also judged horses, cattle, bull-dogs and cats!*"⁴¹

³⁶ *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, May 20, 1899

³⁷ *Derby Daily Telegraph*, December 31, 1934

³⁸ British Goat Society, <http://www.cybergocat.com/NubianTalk/firstnubians.html>

³⁹ *ibid*

⁴⁰ "Graveleys, Great Waltham", *Chelmsford Chronicle*, November 1, 1907

⁴¹ "Chapter One - The Early Years", britishgoatsociety.com

A report on a 1909 British Goat Society show has Sam listed as a judge, *"Goats have become very popular in late years, and no better class have ever been seen at the Agricultural Hall than that brought before Mr. Sam Woodiwiss yesterday."*⁴²

The London Standard was very complimentary in their yearly agriculture report, which read, *"The great development of the last decade has been in deep milking. That great breeder, Mr. Woodiwiss, has specially concentrated his efforts in that direction, and he finds it profitable, apart from the patriotism of creating on British soil a regular deep-milking strain"*.⁴³

HACKNEY PONIES

Sam was also involved in the showing of Hackney Ponies. At a Hackney Society Show, held at London's Agriculture Hall on March 6, 1902, Sam's mare, Sedgemere Lady Horace, placed first in the class for young mares⁴⁴. The same newspaper article also noted, *"Wretched indeed was the prospect yesterday at the Agricultural Hall. A dense fog filled the building, and the spectator was irresistibly reminded of the saying that 'all cats are grey in the dark' for bays, browns and chestnuts all looked alike, and loomed indistinctly in the darkness, which the electric light could not ineffectually dispel."*

MICE

*"In the early 1880's mouse breeders attempted to encourage small livestock clubs to add a few mouse classes to their show schedules, and as a result, the first reported class for mice was at Oxford in 1892. By 1895 it was clear that there was enough support to form a club, and the National Mouse Club was formed, with some thirty members joining during the first year. The first president was Mr. Sam Woodiwiss ..."*⁴⁵

A SECOND SEDGEMERE KENNEL

In 1900, Sam moved to Graveleys, Great Waltham, Essex, where he set up a second Sedgemere Kennel. The 1901 census confirms that Samuel Woodiwiss lived in Great Waltham, and he remained there until he died in June of 1952.

He continued to be active in the various fancies, often as a judge at dog shows, per this 1912 report, *"The Bulldog Club held their forty-first annual championship show yesterday at Holborn Hall. The judges were Mr. Tom Ferguson, Mr. A.F. Nash and Mr. Sam Woodiwiss."*⁴⁶

While other family members preferred to be active in politics – his father, Sir Abraham Woodiwiss was twice Mayor of Derby; his eldest brother, Abraham, was also twice Mayor of Derby; his brother, George, was Mayor of Bath; and his brother, Isaac, was a member of the Derbyshire City Council – Sam *"preferred an open-air life, and has devoted himself to animal breeding. In the animal world few people have a more distinguished record than Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, as breeder, exhibitor and judge."*⁴⁷

From newspaper reports, it would appear that no matter what Sam Woodiwiss chose to breed and show, whether it be dogs, cats, mice, goats, pigs, ponies, sheep, or cattle, his exhibits always did well, amassing

⁴² *The London Standard*, October 6, 1909

⁴³ *The London Standard*, January 13, 1910

⁴⁴ *The London Standard*, March 7, 1902

⁴⁵ National Mouse Club, <http://www.thenationalmouseclub.co.uk/history.php>

⁴⁶ *The London Standard*, May 30, 1912

⁴⁷ *Derby Daily Telegraph*, December 31, 1934

a huge number of medals and trophies. The following report from the November 1, 1907 *Chelmsford Chronicle* gives an accounting of Sam Woodiwiss' activities while living in Great Waltham.

Graveleys, Great Waltham.

The current number of the *Farm and Garden* contains an interesting article on Graveleys Farm, Great Waltham, describing it as "a farm of world-wide renown." The owner, Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, has a varied stock. He has won innumerable prizes with his horses, cows, sheep, goats, pigs, bulldogs, and other dogs, and cats. "On entering the hall of his residence a display of prize-medals and cups is presented which is absolutely unique as the winnings of one exhibitor. The medals number over 500, in gold, silver, and bronze, and cups are represented by the score." Mr. Woodiwiss's goats number sixty, and whereas the yield of milk of an average goat in full profit is two quarts a day, some of his animals give no less than five quarts. "Inspected individually or looked at collectively, the Graveleys goats are marvellously interesting." Of course, Mr. Woodiwiss's treasure is his Sedgemere Faith, a pure Alpine and a veritable Derby winner in the world of goats. "She yields a maximum in milk, and is possessed of every point which goes to constitute a perfect goat. She is about nine years old, and has won fourteen cups and medals and thirteen first prizes at leading shows." His favourite breed of cattle is Red Polls. His stock, the eighth largest in England, numbers fifty-six head. A choice small flock of the purest Suffolk sheep are retained for breeding. The farm horses are chiefly Shires. Large white Yorkshire pigs are bred extensively. "Pedigree short-coated blue Russian cats have been bred for years and shown most successfully."

Figure 10 - From *Chelmsford Chronicle*, November 1, 1907

Woodiwiss apparently attributed his success in breeding to the study of pedigrees, as reported in the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*, 7th November 1895:

"I elicited the fact that Mr. Sam Woodiwiss is as ardent a fancier to-day as he was 12 years since when he first won his laurels. Two great points I found this gentleman was strong upon and these were: — "Pedigrees" and "Blood," truly two grand essentials to bear in mind, and without which no fancier can reach the pinnacle of success."

Truer words were probably never spoken.



Figure 11 - The plot for SEDGEMERE, East Finchley, Middlesex, England – the home of Mr. Samuel Woodiwiss 1888-1900. Shown is the layout of the cattery, kennel, paddock for his ponies, a habitat for monkeys, and a farmyard for cows, pigs, poultry, etc.

FANCIERS AT HOME.

MR. SAM WOODIWISS, F.Z.S.

It is always a pleasure to pay a visit to a genuine Fancier, and that pleasure is greatly enhanced when one is assured of a hearty welcome. I was spending a short holiday near the Metropolis a few weeks since, when I received a pressing invitation from Mr. Sam Woodiwiss (son of the late Sir Peter Woodiwiss), to visit his kennels and estate at East Finchley. It is needless to say I accepted the kind offer with the greatest pleasure, knowing that this gentleman (who may be just styled one of the Kings of the Dog World), is possessed of the pride of the Fancy, and that the visit would undoubtedly prove a rich treat to one who, like your humble servant, is so interested in pure-bred live stock. Well, on arrival at Paddington I found a well-appointed brougham waiting to convey me to Sedgemere, which is situated in the outskirts of London. Mr. Woodiwiss gave me a most hearty welcome to his mansion, and after a capital lunch we proceeded to

THE KENNELS.

My readers may imagine my surprise when, after walking through the charming grounds at the rear of the house, we entered an extensive space of ground asphalted over and surrounded by close on 50 good sized houses or dog kennels, each being perfection in itself, sleeping house, and all necessaries for the comfort and health of the distinguished canine inmates. There is a strong iron railed frontage, whilst two large doors at night protect the valuable dogs from the weather and cold winds. First we came to the roted Bull Dogs, and here let me state that no man has done more to perfect this particular breed than the gentleman whose name heads this article, spending both time and money in raising the Bull Dog Fancy to the high position it holds at the present time. House after house contained typical specimens of the

wonderful breed, showing splendid faces, wide and deep, big skulls, and broad shoulders and bone, so necessary to the Bull Dog, also the all important wrinkles of the head, to perfection. The noted winner, Blackberry, winner of innumerable first prizes, was pointed out to me, truly a massive bitch with great width of body and grand muscular developments in forearms. Other great winners were present, including Sheffield Barry, Bilberry, Brassy Sal, etc. House after house was visited, containing grand massive Bull Dogs, very few indeed lacking the necessary points for the show bench.

We next came to a new variety of dog lately introduced into this country, the "Dogues de Bordeaux." These wonderful specimens (of which there are only six in England and four of these in Sedgemere Kennels), are somewhat of the Bull Dog species, but very much larger, and bolder in appearance and shape of body. Then we came to favourite varieties of mine, the old English Sheep dogs, looking perfection, with grand coats; also rough and smooth Collies of various ages, Fox and Irish Terriers of the best stamp, especially the latter, one of the litters having some puppies already showing great promise, and will be probably heard of to advantage later on. An interesting specimen was a Thibet Mastiff (imported), a massive looking animal in superb condition. We passed several kennels containing Greyhounds, and came to the well-known crack, Real Jam, a noted winner of first prizes whenever shown in best of company.

After looking over the extensive canine collection we glanced at the veterinary-room, fitted with all the needful medicines and appliances, also the kitchen, for my readers may readily imagine it takes something substantial to feed such a stock of valuable dogs and champion specimens. We passed out from the well-kept kennels, the like of which I doubt is to be seen in this part of the country, to view the other stock, and on the way passed

THE RABBITRIES

where, in properly built and excellently arranged hutches, were over 30 capital specimens of Flemish Giants, Belgian Hares, Himalayans, Polish, Dutch, Angoras, Silver Greys, and Creams. Most of them were prize bred and would certainly hold their own in good company. Next we saw several

AVIARIES AND LOFTS

containing pigeons, and I noticed Fantails, Turbits, Archangels and Satinettes, and although Mr. Woodiwiss seldom exhibits I am of opinion the pigeon fancy would have a hot time of it were he to enter the lists. In various parts of the extensive grounds were pens of Wyandottes, Brown Leghorns, Langshans, Black Minorcas, etc. Most of the birds were of prize strain, and typical specimens were to be seen in some of the runs. I may here say that Mr. Woodiwiss intends to take up one of the breeds of poultry, and should he do so in the excellent manner in which he has supported the other sections of the fancy, poultry breeders will have to look to their laurels.

THE CATTERY.

We now entered a large building which I discovered was a Cattery, specially erected for the benefit of "poor puss." Here, though in confinement, "pussy" is allowed to ramble in large runs, and even to climb the proverbial "tiles," though with the aid of wire netting she is confined within certain limits. It was truly the perfection of a Cattery, and its owners did credit to the establishment. The wonderful Tabby champion Xenophon first claimed attention. This is acknowledged to be the finest specimen ever produced or exhibited; it has won whilst in Mr. Woodiwiss's possession six times the championship for best smooth hair, and seven firsts and 19 specials at first class shows. It has a wonderful head, grand markings, and perfection of colour. Next we found a splendid black female, Sedgemere Darkie, another noted winner with lovely head and eye, and colour of the deepest jet. A Silver Tabby female showed good points and looked in splendid condition. Then we came to a house containing a recent purchase of two Abyssinian cats, exceedingly pretty specimens of the feline race, the colour approaching that of the Silver Agouti Cavy, and when exhibited will doubtless be a great attraction. Many specimens owned by Mr. Woodiwiss last year have been disposed of or have died, viz., the wonderful Iceland Fishing Cat, and the African Tiger Cats, which were much admired when exhibited at the Bath and Clifton Cat Shows.

THE MONKEY HOUSE.

I thought I had seen all the live stock belonging to this enthusiastic Fancier when I was directed to a large glass roofed building, which to my great surprise was full of monkeys! Yes, my readers, and wonderfully pretty specimens too. Nine of the most rare monkeys were caged in various compartments. I was shown a marvellous Japanese ape with a strange looking face, also a Diana monkey, with a lovely tail of coloured fur. The small Bonnet monkey was a strange looking animal, whilst the Capuchin and Jew were rather too ferocious to please a modest Fancier like myself. Four Resnes completed the collection. Though several showed signs of fierceness to a stranger, to my friend and his son they seemed quite friendly. Probably they knew I was not an F.Z.S., and did not understand their "funny little ways." I have visited most of the English Zoos, and can confidently say none excelled the Sedgemere "pets."

BIRDS AND MICE.

At the end of the monkey house we came to an aviary full of lovely canaries in grand colour and plumage, also three parrots, looking well cared for, whilst in another corner were to be found cages of fancy mice of various colours, cinnamon, silver, self coloured, and Dutch marked specimens of the rodent tribe. "And now we have reached the

GOAT HOUSES AND PIGGERIES."

said mine host. "What, more live stock?" "Yes" replied Mr. Woodiwiss, "and more useful fancies, too." Well, we wandered through another portion of the grounds and passed a large lake where swans, ducks and geese were regaling themselves, and came to a large paddock where close by were stables and sheds in well bricked and concrete yards. I found my friend possessed no fewer than eight goats, two Angora (a very pretty long-haired variety) one Joggenburg, one Somali, one Ibex, and three British Billies and Nannies. Goat breeding, I learnt, is on the increase, and through the efforts of the British Goat Society is being brought more to the front as a useful fancy. Some of those seen at Sedgemere were certainly charming looking animals. The piggeries contained ten Berkshire, two Tamworth, and two Yorkshire pigs, all pure bred and looking as if good food and comfortable quarters suited their natures.

THE STABLES

are on an extensive scale, containing nine horses, five being in hard work on the estate, two pony hackney mares, and two foals.

RELICS AND TROPHIES.

This concluded my survey of the out-door department, and I was invited to a smoke and chat, etc., in the study, which to my surprise contained skeletons of the noted champion Bull Dogs owned by Mr. Woodiwiss, and well known in the Dog World, for who does not revere the memories of such famous winners as Dockleaf, British Monarch, and Grabber, and to see the bones of these champions gracing their master's study brought back pleasant recollections of their winning days, whilst in the drawing-room adjoining I was shown the preserved skins of these noble creatures. In a bookcase close by me were handsomely-bound catalogues of all the principal shows of the last 12 years, and even the walls were adorned with drawings of the many Bull Dogs of past and present shows, whilst a large glass case contained dozens of gold, silver, and bronze medals, out of the 300 which have been won by this great Fancier. In the library I was afterwards shown the largest collection of pen and ink drawings of Bull Dogs to be seen in this country. From top to bottom all the four walls were covered with pictures of the canine species, in addition to which I viewed with admiration a large glass case containing 31 silver cups and challenge vases of various sizes won since 1888. I also noticed a case of three live lizards of great size, the remains of a large vivarium kept. These three reptiles were three years old, and just going off for their winter's sleep.

A MODEL FANCIER.

I spent several days at this Fancier's charming home, and found Mr. Woodiwiss to be a thorough Fancier in the true sense of the word, keeping live stock, as he does, of all possible varieties, purely for the love of the Fancy, and not for what may or may not be made out of it, and whilst displaying a decided partiality for Bull Dogs, is equally willing to advance other branches of the Fancy, whether fur or feather. In fact, the Fancy world has one of the strongest supporters it possesses in the family of Woodiwiss, both in him and his esteemed brother, Mr. George Woodiwiss, our energetic Bath president, so respected in the West. Mine host has endeavoured by his personal efforts, his liberality, also by his time and experience, to advance its interests and to purify it.

I elicited the fact that Mr. Sam Woodiwiss is as ardent a fancier to-day as he was 12 years since when he first won his laurels. Two great points I found this gentleman was strong upon and these were: — Pedigrees" and "Blood," truly two grand essentials to bear in mind, and without which no fancier can reach the pinnacle of success.

But I must now conclude this sketch of one of the best fanciers this country possesses. Brief and imperfect as it is, it will give my readers some idea of this model fancier's home, and I am sure Western fanciers will join with me in wishing long life, success and happiness to the proud owner of "Sedgemere."

BLADUD.

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THE CATS OF THE SAMUEL WOODIWISS (bred/owned)

Name	Breed	Registration	Birthdate	Sire	Dam	Breeder	Owner	Wins/Notes
AYRESHIRE SILVER DUCHESS	English Shorthair	CCR v III	04/1898	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. S. Woodiwiss	Mrs. MacKenzie Stewart	2nd Croydon, 1922
PYCHLEY QUEENIE	English Shorthair	GCCF 439	3/27/1922	Sedgemere Blue Boy	Bluette	Mr. S. Woodiwiss	Mrs. Soames	
SEDGEMERE BELLE	English Shorthair	NCC 1640		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. S. Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE BESS	English Shorthair	NCC 1641	4/1890	Unknown	Unknown	Mrs. Herring	Mrs. S. Woodiwiss	1st, Brighton, 1891; 1st, Eoyal Aquarium, 1894.
SEDGEMERE DAISY	English Shorthair	NCC 1638		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. S. Woodiwiss	2nd, Eoyal Aquarium Cat Show, 1894.
SEDGEMERE DOROTHY	English Shorthair	NCC 1661		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE ENA	English Shorthair	NCC 1639	11/21/1893	Moscow	Dwina	Mrs. Carew Cox	Mr. S. Woodiwiss	Former owner Mr. E. Sydney Woodiwiss. 1st, Royal Aquarium, Kitten class, 1894.
SEDGEMERE LENA	English Shorthair	NCC 1659	7/28/1893	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE MABEL	English Shorthair	NCC 1662		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE SPITEFUL	English Shorthair	NCC 1789		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	1st and special, Bath, 1894. Special Clifton, 1894.
SEDGEMERE TOMMY	English Shorthair	NCC 1637		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. S. Woodiwiss	2nd, Royal Aquarium Cat Show, 1894.
SEDGEMERE TUCKER	English Shorthair	NCC 1660		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE UNA	English Shorthair	NCC 1663		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE SILVER KING	English Shorthair						Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE SILVER QUEEN	English Shorthair						Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
WATERSHIP XENIA	English Shorthair	CCR v III	10/04/1896	Xenophon	Zenobia	Mr. S. Woodiwiss	Miss Power	
XNEPHON (XENOPHON)	English Shorthair	NCC 1338	1892	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE HATEFUL	Indian Fishing Cat	NCC 1801		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	1st, Maltón; 2nd, Bishop Auckland; 1st and special, Walsingham; 1st and four specials, C.P. 3rd, Brighton; 1st and special, Guisborough. 1st and special, Great Ayton, 1893; 1st and four specials, Koyal Aquarium, 1894.
SEDGEMERE TOFF	Manx	NCC 1636		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mrs. S. Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE BEESWING	Siamese	SCR	8/6/1918	Sedgemere Peter	Sedgemere Hazy	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	1st, Royal Aquarium Cat Show, 1894.
SEDGEMERE BIANCA (IMP)	Siamese	SCR		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE BUMBLE BEE	Siamese	SCR	8/1/1918	Sedgemere Peter	Sedgemere Hazy	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	Mrs. E.A. Walmisley	
SEDGEMERE CHU	Siamese	SCR 1238	3/3/1924	Ungku	Sedgemere Bianca	Mr. S. Woodiwiss	Miss V.F. Harrison	
SEDGEMERE HAZY	Siamese	SCR	8/1/1915	Chang	Velvi	Miss Nobles	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE HILDA	Siamese	SCR	2/15/1919	Sedgemere Peter	Sedgemere Hazy	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE IDA	Siamese	SCR	2/15/1919	Sedgemere Peter	Sedgemere Hazy	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE JULIET	Siamese	NCC 1665	08/1893	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE KINKY	Siamese	SCR	9/19/1910	Stumpy	Queenie	Miss Strutton	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE LORD OF THE MANOR	Siamese	SCR	4/17/1919	Sedgemere Peter	Sedgemere Kinky	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE MINI OF SIAM	Siamese	SCR	4/4/1916	Prince Souti	Sedgemere Kinky	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE NICKI	Siamese	SCR	9/1/1920	Bigabois	Chela of Hull	Mrs. Nicholson	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE PETER OF SIAM	Siamese	SCR	9/14/1917	Wes Winkles	Sami	Mrs. Scott Russell	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE ROMEO	Siamese	NCC 1664	08/1893	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE ROYAL EDWARD	Siamese	SCR	9/9/1898	Royal Siam	Princess Mandarine	Mrs. Spencer	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE ROYAL GEORGE	Siamese	SCR	9/9/1898	Royal Siam	Princess Mandarine	Mrs. Spencer	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE ROYAL VICTORIA	Siamese	SCR	9/9/1898	Royal Siam	Princess Mandarine	Mrs. Spencer	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE RUTH	Siamese	SCR	3/29/1918	Ray	Sedgemere Hazy	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	Mr. Sam Woodiwiss	
SEDGEMERE YUM YUM	Siamese	SCR 1239	3/3/1924	Ungku	Sedgemere Bianca	Mr. S. Woodiwiss	Mrs. L. Scheerboom	